Category of special tourism state

3836. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has classified any State into special category tourism State;

(b) if so, the names of the State and the criteria adopted for the purpose;

(c) if not, whether Government has any proposal to classify any State or States as special category tourism State, specially the State of Goa, which is well known as an international tourist destination; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Ministry of Tourism does not classify any State as speical category tourism State.

(b) *Does not arise.*

(c) There is no such proposal before the Ministry of Tourism.

(d) Does not arise.

Tourist Security Force

3837. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has directed the State Governments to set up Tourist Security Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such force would be under the control of the Central Government or accountable to the respective State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, the prevention of crime, including crimes agaisnt tourists, is the primary responsibility of State Governments/Union Territories. However, Ministry of Tourism in consultation with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence and State Government/Union Territories is in the process of framing guidelines for formation of a Tourist Security Organization comprising mainly of Ex-Servicemen for the safety and security of tourists.

Conducting spiritual tourism

3838. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Sri Lanka has launched "spiritual tourism" where the main focus will be on taking foreign tourists to about 60 spots which relate to various stages of the Ramayana period;

(b) if so, whether a similar co-ordinated concept of "spiritual tourism" identifying spots